

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

JUN - 6 2005

From the INTERNATIONAL SEARCHING AUTHORITY

**PCT**

NOTIFICATION OF TRANSMITTAL OF  
THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT AND  
THE WRITTEN OPINION OF THE INTERNATIONAL  
SEARCHING AUTHORITY, OR THE DECLARATION

To:

KIMBERLY-CLARK WORLDWIDE, INC.  
Attn. Dean, Ralph H.  
401 N. Lake Street  
Neenah, WI 54956  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

(PCT Rule 44.1)

Date of mailing  
(day/month/year)

03/06/2005

Applicant's or agent's file reference

19996.1

**FOR FURTHER ACTION**

See paragraphs 1 and 4 below

International application No.

PCT/US2004/043848 ✓

International filing date  
(day/month/year)

29/12/2004 ✓

Applicant

KIMBERLY-CLARK WORLDWIDE, INC.

1. ☒ The applicant is hereby notified that the international search report and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority have been established and are transmitted herewith.

**Filing of amendments and statement under Article 19:**

The applicant is entitled, if he so wishes, to amend the claims of the International Application (see Rule 46):

**When?** The time limit for filing such amendments is normally 2 months from the date of transmittal of the International Search Report; however, for more details, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

**Where?** Directly to the International Bureau of WIPO, 34 chemin des Colombettes  
1211 Geneva 20, Switzerland, Facsimile No.: (41-22) 740.14.35

For more detailed instructions, see the notes on the accompanying sheet.

2. ☐ The applicant is hereby notified that no international search report will be established and that the declaration under Article 17(2)(a) to that effect and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority are transmitted herewith.
3. ☐ With regard to the protest against payment of (an) additional fee(s) under Rule 40.2, the applicant is notified that:

- ☐ the protest together with the decision thereon has been transmitted to the International Bureau together with the applicant's request to forward the texts of both the protest and the decision thereon to the designated Offices.
- ☐ no decision has been made yet on the protest; the applicant will be notified as soon as a decision is made.

**4. Reminders**

Shortly after the expiration of **18 months** from the priority date, the international application will be published by the International Bureau. If the applicant wishes to avoid or postpone publication, a notice of withdrawal of the international application, or of the priority claim, must reach the International Bureau as provided in Rules 90bis.1 and 90bis.3, respectively, before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication.

The applicant may submit comments on an informal basis on the written opinion of the International Searching Authority to the International Bureau. The International Bureau will send a copy of such comments to all designated Offices unless an international preliminary examination report has been or is to be established. These comments would also be made available to the public but not before the expiration of 30 months from the priority date.

Within **19 months** from the priority date, but only in respect of some designated Offices, a demand for international preliminary examination must be filed if the applicant wishes to postpone the entry into the national phase until **30 months** from the priority date (in some Offices even later); otherwise, the applicant must, within **20 months** from the priority date, perform the prescribed acts for entry into the national phase before those designated Offices.

In respect of other designated Offices, the time limit of **30 months** (or later) will apply even if no demand is filed within 19 months.

See the Annex to Form PCT/IB/301 and, for details about the applicable time limits, Office by Office, see the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume II, National Chapters and the WIPO Internet site.

Name and mailing address of the International Searching Authority



European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL-2280 HV Rijswijk  
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Authorized officer

Laura Fernández Gómez

## NOTES TO FORM PCT/ISA/220

These Notes are intended to give the basic instructions concerning the filing of amendments under article 19. The Notes are based on the requirements of the Patent Cooperation Treaty, the Regulations and the Administrative Instructions under that Treaty. In case of discrepancy between these Notes and those requirements, the latter are applicable. For more detailed information, see also the *PCT Applicant's Guide*, a publication of WIPO.

In these Notes, "Article", "Rule", and "Section" refer to the provisions of the PCT, the PCT Regulations and the PCT Administrative Instructions, respectively.

### INSTRUCTIONS CONCERNING AMENDMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 19

The applicant has, after having received the international search report and the written opinion of the International Searching Authority, one opportunity to amend the claims of the international application. It should however be emphasized that, since all parts of the international application (claims, description and drawings) may be amended during the international preliminary examination procedure, there is usually no need to file amendments of the claims under Article 19 except where, e.g. the applicant wants the latter to be published for the purposes of provisional protection or has another reason for amending the claims before international publication. Furthermore, it should be emphasized that provisional protection is available in some States only (see *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Annexes B1 and B2).

The attention of the applicant is drawn to the fact that amendments to the claims under Article 19 are not allowed where the International Searching Authority has declared, under Article 17(2), that no international search report would be established (see *PCT Applicant's Guide*, Volume I/A, paragraph 296).

#### What parts of the international application may be amended?

Under Article 19, only the claims may be amended.

During the international phase, the claims may also be amended (or further amended) under Article 34 before the International Preliminary Examining Authority. The description and drawings may only be amended under Article 34 before the International Examining Authority.

Upon entry into the national phase, all parts of the international application may be amended under Article 28 or, where applicable, Article 41.

#### When?

Within 2 months from the date of transmittal of the international search report or 16 months from the priority date, whichever time limit expires later. It should be noted, however, that the amendments will be considered as having been received on time if they are received by the International Bureau after the expiration of the applicable time limit but before the completion of the technical preparations for international publication (Rule 46.1).

#### Where not to file the amendments?

The amendments may only be filed with the International Bureau and not with the receiving Office or the International Searching Authority (Rule 46.2).

Where a demand for international preliminary examination has been/is filed, see below.

#### How?

Either by cancelling one or more entire claims, by adding one or more new claims or by amending the text of one or more of the claims as filed.

A replacement sheet must be submitted for each sheet of the claims which, on account of an amendment or amendments, differs from the sheet originally filed.

All the claims appearing on a replacement sheet must be numbered in Arabic numerals. Where a claim is cancelled, no renumbering of the other claims is required. In all cases where claims are renumbered, they must be renumbered consecutively (Administrative Instructions, Section 205(b)).

The amendments must be made in the language in which the international application is to be published.

#### What documents must/may accompany the amendments?

##### Letter (Section 205(b)):

The amendments must be submitted with a letter.

The letter will not be published with the international application and the amended claims. It should not be confused with the "Statement under Article 19(1)" (see below, under "Statement under Article 19(1)").

The letter must be in English or French, at the choice of the applicant. However, if the language of the international application is English, the letter must be in English; if the language of the international application is French, the letter must be in French.

# PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

# PCT

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

(PCT Article 18 and Rules 43 and 44)

Applicant's or agent's file reference <b>19996.1</b>	<b>FOR FURTHER ACTION</b>		see Form PCT/ISA/220 as well as, where applicable, item 5 below.
International application No. <b>PCT/US2004/043848 ✓</b>	International filing date (day/month/year) <b>29/12/2004 ✓</b>	(Earliest) Priority Date (day/month/year) <b>30/12/2003 ✓</b>	
Applicant  <b>KIMBERLY-CLARK WORLDWIDE, INC.</b>			

This International Search Report has been prepared by this International Searching Authority and is transmitted to the applicant according to Article 18. A copy is being transmitted to the International Bureau.

This International Search Report consists of a total of 7 sheets.

☒ It is also accompanied by a copy of each prior art document cited in this report.

**1. Basis of the report**

a. With regard to the language, the international search was carried out on the basis of the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

☐ The international search was carried out on the basis of a translation of the international application furnished to this Authority (Rule 23.1(b)).

b. ☐ With regard to any nucleotide and/or amino acid sequence disclosed in the international application, see Box No. I.

**2.** ☐ Certain claims were found unsearchable (See Box II).

**3.** ☒ Unity of invention is lacking (see Box III).

**4. With regard to the title,**

✓ ☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established by this Authority to read as follows:

**5. With regard to the abstract,**

☒ the text is approved as submitted by the applicant.

☐ the text has been established, according to Rule 38.2(b), by this Authority as it appears in Box No. IV. The applicant may, within one month from the date of mailing of this international search report, submit comments to this Authority.

**6. With regard to the drawings,**

a. the figure of the drawings to be published with the abstract is Figure No. 16a, 16b

☒ as suggested by the applicant.

☐ as selected by this Authority, because the applicant failed to suggest a figure.

☐ as selected by this Authority, because this figure better characterizes the invention.

b. ☐ none of the figures is to be published with the abstract.

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.  
PCT/US2004/043848

## Box II Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:
2. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:
3. ☐ Claims Nos.:  
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

## Box III Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 3 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. ☐ As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.
2. ☐ As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.
3. ☒ As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:  
1-40, 43
4. ☐ No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- ☐ The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- ☐ No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. claims: 1-4,5-7, 43

absorbent article having at least two/three elements, each element comprising at least two visual characteristics  
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2. claims: 8-40

absorbent product disposed in a package, wherein both the absorbent product and the packaging each has at least two visual characteristics  
---

3. claim: 41

absorbent product disposed in a first packaging, which is in turn placed in a second packaging  
---

4. claim: 42

absorbent product having at least two visual characteristics and a translucent or transparent packaging  
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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US2004/043848

## A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER

IPC 7 A61F13/00 A61F13/42 D21F1/00 A61F13/15 A47K10/16  
B32B7/14

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

## B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

IPC 7 A61F B32B D04H D21F A47K

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal

## C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	WO 01/95845 A (SCA HYGIENE PRODUCTS AB; STENBERG, ANDERS) 20 December 2001 (2001-12-20) page 3, line 23 - page 6, line 25; figures -----	1-7, 43
X	US 2003/136529 A1 (BURAZIN MARK ALAN ET AL) 24 July 2003 (2003-07-24) claims 1-22; figures -----	1-7, 43
X	EP 1 327 427 A (UNI-CHARM CORPORATION) 16 July 2003 (2003-07-16) paragraph '0033! - paragraph '0091!; figures -----	1-7, 43
X	GB 1 268 262 A (GILL) 29 March 1972 (1972-03-29) page 1, line 8 - line 75; figures -----	1-7, 43
	-/--	

☒ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

## \* Special categories of cited documents:

\*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance

\*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date

\*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)

\*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means

\*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

\*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention

\*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone

\*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.

\*Z\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

24 May 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

03.06.2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

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Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Boccignone, M

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/US2004/043848

## C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 5 503 076 A (YEO ET AL) 2 April 1996 (1996-04-02) column 4, line 8 - column 6, line 17; figures -----	1-7, 43
X	EP 0 922 422 A (POPP, JUERGEN; SCHADE, PETER) 16 June 1999 (1999-06-16) paragraph '0019! - paragraph '0030!; figures -----	1-7, 43
X	WO 02/30347 A (THE PROCTER & GAMBLE COMPANY) 18 April 2002 (2002-04-18) -----	8, 10-19, 23, 27, 28, 31-40 25, 26
A	page 5, paragraph 3 - page 13, paragraph 1; claims 1-13; figures -----	
A	US 2002/148749 A1 (BRISEBOI HENRI ET AL) 17 October 2002 (2002-10-17) paragraph '0034! - paragraph '0053!; figures -----	8-40

# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US2004/043848

Patent document cited in search report		Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
WO 0195845	A	20-12-2001	AT 286702 T AU 6447101 A BR 0111490 A CA 2409558 A1 CN 1436065 A DE 60108385 D1 DK 1292258 T3 EP 1292258 A1 JP 2004503297 T MX PA02011707 A NZ 522662 A PL 359184 A1 SE 0002206 A WO 0195845 A1 TW 492860 B US 2002016579 A1	15-01-2005 24-12-2001 25-03-2003 20-12-2001 13-08-2003 17-02-2005 29-03-2005 19-03-2003 05-02-2004 27-03-2003 25-06-2004 23-08-2004 14-12-2001 20-12-2001 01-07-2002 07-02-2002
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GB 1268262	A	29-03-1972	DE 2014202 A1 DK 120834 B	08-10-1970 19-07-1971
US 5503076	A	02-04-1996	AU 679815 B2 AU 1088195 A BR 9408217 A CA 2116935 A1 CN 1142254 A ,C DE 4499437 T0 GB 2284384 A ,B WO 9515410 A1 ZA 9409027 A	10-07-1997 19-06-1995 26-08-1997 02-06-1995 05-02-1997 05-12-1996 07-06-1995 08-06-1995 18-07-1995
EP 0922422	A	16-06-1999	AT 201312 T DE 29821626 U1 DE 59801362 D1 EP 0922422 A1	15-06-2001 18-02-1999 04-10-2001 16-06-1999
WO 0230347	A	18-04-2002	AU 9702301 A EP 1324735 A1 WO 0230347 A1	22-04-2002 09-07-2003 18-04-2002



# INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

Information on patent family members

International Application No

PCT/US2004/043848

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2002148749 A1	17-10-2002	US 6454095 B1	24-09-2002
		AU 4387501 A	15-11-2001
		BR 0101961 A	18-12-2001
		CA 2347288 A1	12-11-2001
		CN 1329882 A ,C	09-01-2002
		CZ 20011665 A3	17-07-2002
		DE 60106515 D1	25-11-2004
		EP 1153838 A1	14-11-2001
		ZA 200103813 A	11-11-2002

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